(i) The company conforms to the eligibility criteria as per ther evised guidelines for uplinking of news and current affairs TV channels from India announced.

(ii) Foreign investment upto 26% is permissible under the guidelines and the company is required to produce documentary evidence after shares, etc. are issued to establish that the shareholding pattern is in accordance with approval granted.

(iii) while calculating the 26% FDI in the equity of the applicant company, the foreign holding component in the equiry of the Indian shareholder companies of the applicant company will be duly reckoned on pro rata basis so asto arrive at the total foreign holding in the applicant company.

(iv) The issue and pricing of shares shall be as per SEBI/RBI pricing norms.

(v) As shareholding of the company has to be firmed up by the company before the uplinking application is processed by Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the investments made thereto, FIPB clearance is recommended. The uplinking proposal of MCCS will be examined separately by the Ministry of I & B. The FIPB approval is subject to approval being accorded by Ministry of I and B to the application received from MCCS for uplinking of the news and current affairs television channel from India.

(c) The proposal of MCCS to uplink its Star News channel from India is under examination in Ministry of I&B.

Collaboration in production of serials

†1347. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of the Doordarshan for collaboration in the field of production of serials;

(b) if so, the manner of collaboration alongwith the proportion thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether any norms have been set up for the same and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that there exists a scheme of co-production of programmes/serials for Doordarshan.

(b) and (c) Under the guidelines, co-production is to be undertaken, with Doordarshan meeting 50% of the quantified production cost. The norms in this regard include submission of full details of the proposal with a presentation by the outside producer, phased payment of Doordarshan's share of the production cost against 100% irrevocable bank guarantee in respect of proposal approved, charging of penal rate of interest of 15% by Doordarshan on non-adherence to the terms of the agreement including the mutually agreed time schedule, release of final payment by Doordarshan on submission of complete accounts, duly certified, by a C&AG recognized Chartered Accountant by the co-producer.

Training by Film Institute of Pune

†1348. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the fields in which training is being imparted by the film Institute of Pune;

(b) the number of students who are getting training and the number of staff members in the Institute;

(c) the number of students to whom boarding facility is available in the Institute;

(d) the annual expenditure on this Institute during the last three years; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to restart the 'Training in acting' in the Institure, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.